

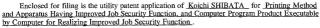
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Box PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:



| [] | Applicant(s) hereby request(s) that the above-captioned application NOT BE PUBLISHED under 35 U.S.C. § 122(b) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.211. The undersigned hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not and will not be t subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing. | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| [] | Applicant(s) suggest(s) Figure _ for inclusion on the front page of the patent application publication and patent. | | | | |
| Also enclosed are: | | | | | |
| [X] | 10 sheet(s) of [X] formal [] informal drawing(s); | | | | |
| [X] | a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and/or 365 is [] hereby made to filed in $_$ on $_;$ | | | | |
| | [X] in the declaration; | | | | |
| [X] | a Claim for Convention Priority | | | | |
| [X] | a certified copy of the priority document; | | | | |
| [] | a General Authorization for Petitions for Extensions of Time and Payment of Fees; | | | | |
| [X] | an Assignment document; | | | | |
| [] | an Information Disclosure Statement; | | | | |
| [] | a bibliographic data entry sheet; and | | | | |
| [] | Other: | | | | |
| [X] | An [X] executed [] unexecuted declaration of the inventor(s) | | | | |
| | [X] also is enclosed [] will follow. | | | | |
| [] | Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentenceThis application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. $\$\$$ 119 and/or 365 to _ filed in _ on _; the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference | | | | |
| [] | Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentenceThis application is a continuation of International Application No filed on _, which designates the United States | | | | |



- [] Small entity status is hereby claimed.
- [X] The filing fee has been calculated as follows [] and in accordance with the enclosed preliminary amendment:

| | No. OF CLAIMS | f a s | EXTRA CLAIMS | RATE | FEE | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|--|--|
| Basic Application Fee | | | | | | | |
| Total Claims | 21 | MINUS 20 = | 1 | × \$18.00 (103) = | 18.00 | | |
| Independent Claims | 3 | MINUS 3 = | 0 | × \$80.00 (102) = | 0 | | |
| If multiple dependent clai | ms are prese | ented, add \$270.00 (| 104) | | | | |
| Total Application Fee | | | | | | | |
| If small entity status is cl | aimed, subtra | act 50% of Total Ap | plication Fe | e | | | |
| Add Assignment Recording Fee \$ if Assignment document is enclosed | | | | | | | |

- This application is being filed without a filing fee. Issuance of a Notice to File Missing Parts of Application is respectfully requested.
- [X] A check in the amount of \$ 768.00 is enclosed for the fee due.
- [] Charge \$ _____ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800 for the fee due.
- [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Bv

Please address all correspondence concerning the present application to:

Platon N. Mandros

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

P.O. Box 1404

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404.

Respectfully submitted

BURNS, DOANE SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: December 1, 2000

Plates N. Mandros N. Registration No. 22,124

P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404 (703) 836-6620